

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5062

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

US MISSION UN NEW YORK 742

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3264

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CU, MX, VE, SW

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER PALME'S COMMENTS ON HIS LATIN AMERICAN
VISIT

REF: STOCKHOLM 3202 AND 3200

1. PALME RECEIVED ME JULY 7 FOR A GENERAL REVIEW OF HIS
LATIN AMERICAN TRIP AND AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON SEVERAL OTHER
TOPICS OF CURRENT INTEREST. MY MAIN IMPRESSION WAS THAT HE
FEELS A NEED TO DEFEND AND JUSTIFY HIS PERFORMANCE IN LATIN
AMERICA, BOTH TO THE SWEDISH PUBLIC AND TO FOREIGN OBSERVERS.

2. CUBA. PALME SAID HE FOUND CASTRO FEELING FULLY SECURE
AND CLEARLY ENJOYING MASS SUPPORT. HE LIKED CASTRO FOR HIS
SIMPLICITY AND CURIOSITY. HE SAID HE AND CASTRO GENERALLY
AVOIDED FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS IN THEIR PRIVATE CONVERSA-
TIONS. CASTRO MENTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD MADE A
GESTURE TOWARDS THE U.S. BY RETURNING RANSOM MONEY CONFIS-
CATED FROM HIJACKERS, AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE US-CUBAN
RELATIONS "NORMALIZED". CASTRO WAS OUTSPOKEN IN HIS
EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR ASSURING
HIS SURVIVAL. PALME SAID CASTRO MENTIONED RECEIVING
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SOVIET OIL AT ADVANTAGEOUS PRICES, BUT DID NOT MENTION
SELLING SUGAR TO THE SOVIET UNION AT LOWER-THAN-MARKET
PRICES. PALME SAID THAT IN HIS PUBLIC ADDRESS CASTRO
OFFERED HIS LISTENERS A PEDAGOGICAL EXPOSITION OF SWEDISH

ACCOMPLISHMENTS, WHICH, SO PALME NOTED, WAS DIGESTED FROM A SWEDISH BANK (SEB) BROCHURE. FOR MY PART, SAID PALME, I EXPLAINED THE PRINCIPLES OF SWEDISH PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AS A FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL REFORMS. PALME SAID HE THOUGHT HIS ADDRESS, DELIVERED TO A MASS AUDIENCE IN CASTRO'S PRESENCE, IMPLIED SOME CRITICISM OF CASTRO'S REGIME. HENCE, HE WAS SURPRISED AND PLEASED WHEN HIS SPEECH WAS REPRODUCED AND REBROADCAST VERBATIM.

3. MEXICO AND CHILE. PALME SAID HE FOUND ECHEVERRIA DYNAMIC AND WELL SUPPORTED BY COMPETENT COLLABORATORS. IN VENEZUELA, ON THE OTHER HAND, HE FOUND PEREZ LACKING IN ABLE COLLABORATORS. IN VENEZUELA MORE THAN IN MEXICO, HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE COMMON LATIN AMERICAN DISPARITY BETWEEN THE GREAT WEALTH OF THE FEW AND THE POVERTY OF THE MANY.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

CONFIDENTIAL

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